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PRESS RELEASE

JON Q. BOWYER, SENTENCED TO 10 MONTHS
FOR CAPTURING GREEN SEA TURTLES

Tampa -- MAC CAULEY, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that Jon Q. Bowyer, age 36, a former resident of Bokeelia, Pine Island, Florida, was sentenced today in Fort Myers, Florida, by United States District Judge John E. Steele to imprisonment for a term of 5 months without the possibility of parole, followed by a term of home confinement for 5 months and a period of supervised release of two years upon release from imprisonment.

Bowyer was sentenced on his convictions pursuant under the Endangered Species Act for the illegal taking of Green Sea Turtles, and for False Statements to a federal agent. Bowyer's convictions stemmed from his December 19, and December 26, 2000, capturing of Green Sea Turtles that he intended to eat, as well as his lying to a NOAA Fisheries agent concerning his possession of Green Sea Turtle parts and frozen Loggerhead Turtle meat . Bowyer had pleaded guilty to these charges previously on June 15, 2001.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement, and Officers of the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland of the Fort Myers Division of the United States Attorney's Office.

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